

**REMARKS**

As an initial matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended during the telephonic conversation of December 23, 2003. Applicants appreciate the opportunity to discuss the issues pending in the case.

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 18, 39-53 and 55-65 will be pending in the application. Support for the amendment to claims 18, 58, and 62 appears in the specification at, e.g., original claims 13 and 18. No new matter has been added.

**Rejections under 35 USC 112, first paragraph**

Claims 18, 39-53, and 55-67 are rejected for lack of enablement. The rejection is traversed to the extent it is applied to the claims as amended.

The Examiner states that the presence of the term "comprising" permits the claims to encompass an antibody which binds to an epitope that is not contained within SEQ ID NO:2. The claims have been amended to specify that the antibody binds to an epitope within a human IL-11 Receptor polypeptide. More particularly, claims 18, 58, and 62, from which the remaining claims subject to the rejection depend, have been amended to require that the recited antibody specifically reacts with a human IL-11 Receptor (IL-11R) protein. The claims further require that the human IL-11R protein comprise an amino acid sequence from SEQ ID NO:2 selected from the group consisting of amino acids 26 to 111, amino acids 112 to 365, amino acids 366 to 390, and amino acids 391 to 422. Thus, the presently claimed antibody expressly excludes antibodies that bind to a polypeptide or moiety other than an IL-11Receptor polypeptide.

In view of the foregoing comments, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection for lack of enablement.

Rejections under 35 USC 102(b), second paragraph

Claims 18, 39-53 and 55-65 are rejected as anticipated by Giaevers, US Patent No. 4,054,646 ("Giaevers"). The rejection is traversed to the extent it is applied to the claims as amended.

Claims 18, 58, and 62, from which the remaining claims subject to the rejection depend, have been amended to require that the recited antibody specifically reacts with a human IL-11 Receptor (IL-11R) protein. Giaevers does not describe antibodies to an IL-11R protein. Therefore, it fails to describe all the features of the invention now claimed. Gievaer additionally fails to disclose an antibody that binds to polypeptides that include the recited amino acid sequences, i.e., an amino acid sequence from SEQ ID NO:2 selected from the group consisting of amino acids 26 to 111, amino acids 112 to 365, amino acids 366 to 390, and amino acids 391 to 422.

Because Giaevers fails to describe the invention now claimed, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection for anticipation is requested.

The application is believed in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be due, or credit any overpayments of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Ref. No. 22058-516 DIV CON.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 26, 2004